accidents in the country and steps taken to minimise such accidents; and

(b) what was the total amount sanctioned, expenditure incurred and balance left out for the development of roads in the country which are in a very bad shape during the last 3 years by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) Road accidents in the National Capital Territory of Delhi is 2.96 percent of the total number of accidents that take place in thr country. The steps taken to minimise road accidents are given in the statement (*see* below).

(b) The Central Government is responsible for construction and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The funds allocated for the National Highways during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Item of work	Year	Allocation
Original Works	1992-93	39936.64
	1993-94	49493.34
	1994-95	63029.50
Maintenance and repairs	1992-93	16753.96
	1993-94	20981.98
	1994-95	24690.00

The amounts allocated have been fully spent on the National Highways. There is, therefore, no balance in this regard.

Statement

Steps taken / being taken to reduce accidents in Delhi

1. The Transport Department, Delhi has set up a Motor Driving Training School to impart driver training on scientific lines.

2. Measures have been taken to ensure strict compliance of provisions of Motor Vehicles Act with regard to issue of driving licences as well as fitness of the vehicles.

3. The Delhi Police have taken following steps to check the accidents:

(i) Strict and rigid enforcement of traffic rules and regulations, including suspension of permits.

(ii) Organising special drives against rash and negligent driving, driving without licence, drunken driving and red light jumping, etc.

(iii) Regular prosecution of violators by issue of notice.

(iv) Introduction of traffic signals/ blinkers in accident prone areas.

(v) Development of more traffic policemen in accident prone areas.

(vi) Arrest of drivers indulging in reckless driving.

(vii) Prosecution through most modern equipment i.e. Alcometer and Radar Gun.

(viii) Taking out mobile exhibition van to different places for refresher courses.

(ix) Distribution of literature on road safety.

Prime Minister's foreign tours

SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Prime Minister went abroad on official trips during the last five years;

(b) how much expenditure was incurred from Government funds on these foreign trips;

(c) how many countries he visited in these tours; and

(d) for how many days was he away from India after assuming office of Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao undertook official

trips abroad on 30 occasions during the last five years.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) He visited 38 countries during these tours.

(d) He was away from the country for a total number of 150 days after assuming office.

Establishment of Cargo tie up with India and Singapore

1651. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore has shown interest in establishing Cargo tie up with India;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the reaction of Government of India thereon; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remove red-tape, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Allotment of Gas Agencies in the Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh

1652. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is comparatively lesser number of gas agencies in the eighth hill districts of Uttar Pradesh in comparison to other parts, which are similarly situated in the country;

(b) if so, what is the ratio of gas agency vis-a-vis the area and population of the area in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern States;

(c) whether the areas of Uttar Pradesh hills are heavily discriminated in this regard; and

(d) if so, what steps Government will take to increase the number of gas agencies in the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) From the details given below, it may be seen that people residing in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh have not been discriminated against those in Himachal Pradesh, J&K, North Eastern States, in